

The Endocrinology of Reproduction. Edited by J. T. VELARDO, PH.D., of Yale University Medical School. New York, Oxford University Press. Pp. viii + 340. Price 120s. 0d.

This book is a compromise in medical literature. It is not a series of monographs for the experts and for those with a special interest. The authors, all from medical schools in the eastern states of America, present a summary rather than a critical survey of recent work and hypotheses. The constant references to other writers make for discomfort in reading. The space given to topographical and microscopic anatomy appears at times to restrict fuller discussion of recent work, and its applicability to human physiology and pathology. The first section, written by the editor, is full of interest for the ordinary medical reader. The stimulus is often left unsatisfied by the brevity of paragraphs on such subjects as control of pituitary function by the hypothalamus or on the stimulation and suppression of lactation.

The bibliography attached to each section is very lengthy; only about one in ten of the papers referred to are published in this country. The index is brief. For full appreciation of the text it should no doubt be read in conjunction with many of the papers referred to.

The illustrations by R. C. Wabnitz are admirably clear, though a little reminiscent of the larger and glossier advertisement brochures. The book is finely produced and the eyes become accustomed to the double columns after some protest and the language is harmonious even to an insular mind.

Though not a book that many general practitioners will feel impelled to buy, in its comprehensiveness it may well reveal important papers to a family doctor working on a particular aspect of the subject. In spite of the specialization in subject and approach, this reviewer will certainly miss the book as background reading.

Cyclopropane Anesthesia. B. H. ROBBINS, B.A., M.S., M.D. Second edition. 1958. Bailliere, Tindall & Cox, London (for Williams & Wilkins Company of America). Pp. xii + 293, figs. 74, and tables 52. Price £3 12s. 0d.

In the United States of America the sale of cyclopropane increased from 67,000 pounds in 1951 to 116,000 pounds in 1956. It is now one-twelfth its cost in 1934, and available in plenty. The excellent monograph by Robbins covers all aspects of its use, including the evidence for the claims made for its excellence as an